Sugar export scandal

4080. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Excise Department has ordered a high-level probe into the multi-crore sugar export scandal;

(b) if so, whether investigations in all sugar units have been ordered for five years with priority being given from January, 2000 onwards;

(c) whether any reports in this regard have been received from the inquiry committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of cases in which Sugar was cleared for export without payment of central excise duty but diverted into domestic market are as follows :

No. of Sugar Mills	Duty amount involved (in Rs. Lakhs)	Duty amount recovered (in Rs. Lakhs)
21	678.92	307.52

(e) Action has been initiated in all the cases to recover the excise duty evaded and to penalise those concerned.

NRI remittances from Gulf region

4081. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that NRI remittances from the Gulf region, which recorded a sharp jump in the first two months of 2003 had a greater impact during the war;

(b) if so, whether this shortfall has effected the remittances and it is a major factor in the accumulation of foreign exchange and had an impact in the exchange rate;

(c) if so, to what extend the NRI remittances have been eroded;

(d) to what extent it had an impact on our foreign exchange earnings; and

(e) what steps are being considered by Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (e) The data on sources of accretion to India's foreign exchange reserves are available for the period April—December 2002. The war in Iraq started around the third week of March 2003. Latest data available with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) indicates that India's foreign exchange reserves increased by US $1.93 billion during the period March 21 to April 11, 2003 compared with an increase of US $1.49 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year. Based on these figures, it is likely that so far there has been little or no adverse effect on the remittances by NRIs. As regards the exchange rate, the daily movement in Rupee/US dollar exchange rate reflects that the Indian rupee has generally strengthened *vis-a-vis* the US Dollar since March 20, 2003. RBI has been closely monitoring the trends and developments in foreign currency and domestic money market and appropriate measures are undertaken as and when necessary. By and large, the financial markets in the country have remained stable during the period.

Grants to NGOs by Japan

4082. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the number of NGOs who received grants from Japan during the last three years;

(b) the amount utilised by each NGO out of the grants received from the Government of Japan; and

(c) whether Central Government have received the utilisation certificates from these NGOs ?